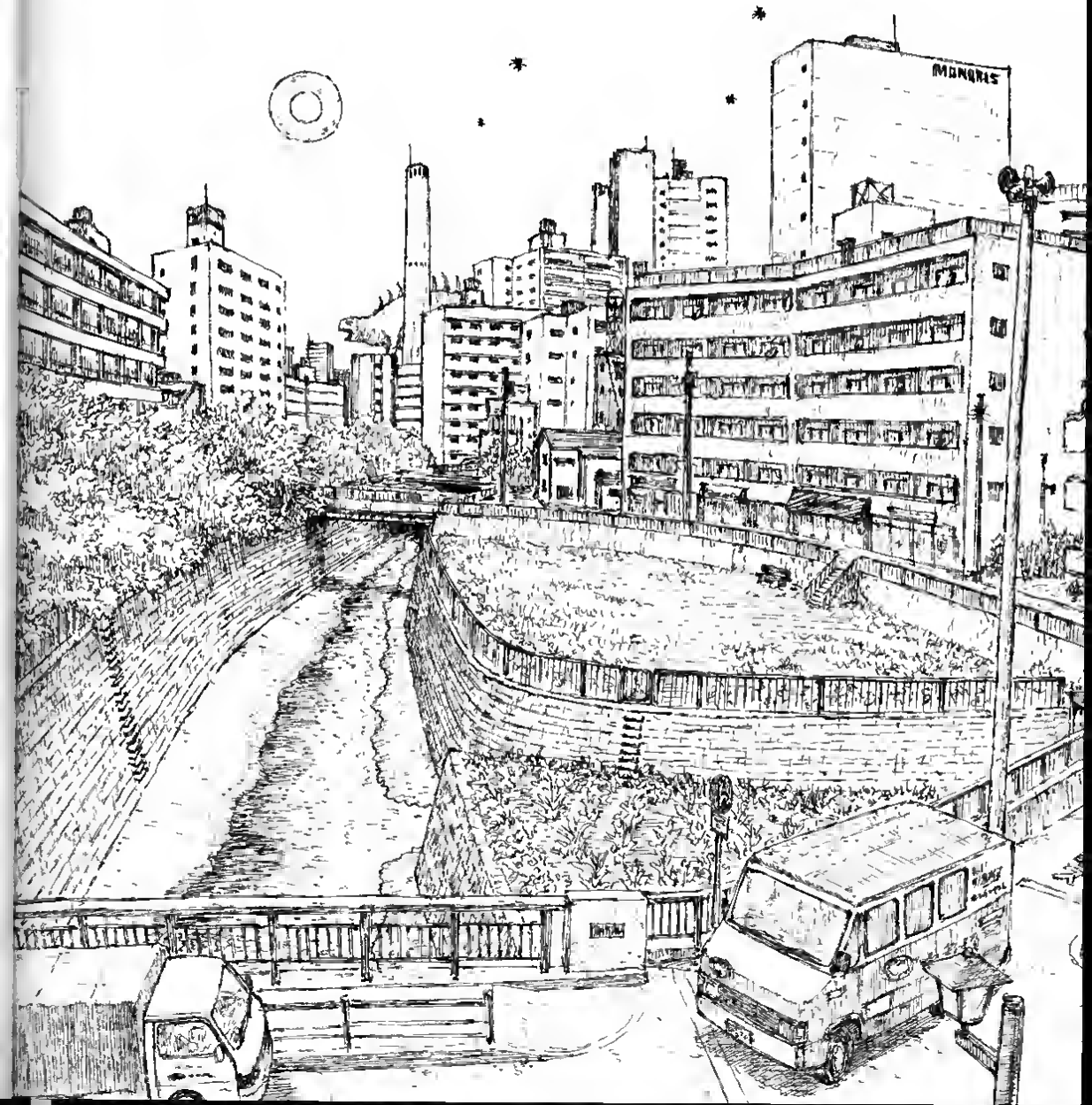
HIDEJI ODA

A PATCH OF DREAMS

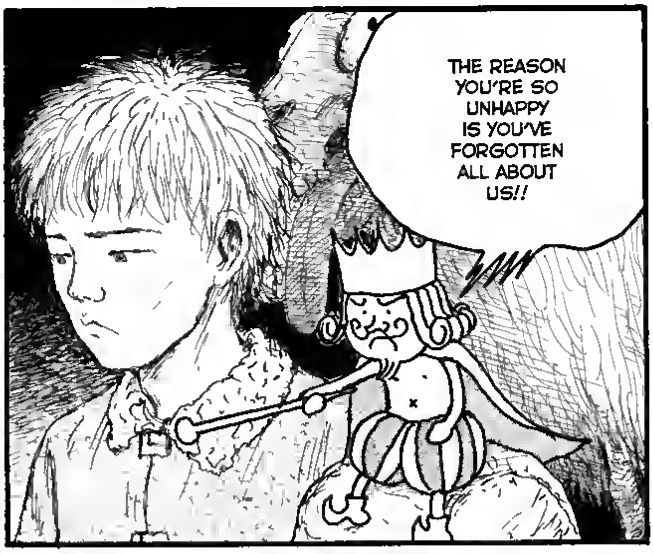
FANFARE / PONENT MON

A Patch of Dreams
Chapter 1



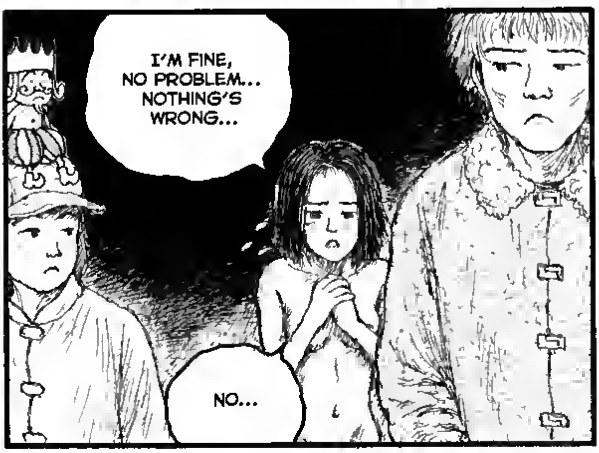
I...
UH...
I'M COLD...
HELP... PLEASE, SOMEBODY, HELP...
OOH.. IT'S...
IT'S... NO USE...
RENEI...
!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M JUST FINE!
HOHO, AREN'T WE PROUD!

IT'S NOT PRIDE! WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW!
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU? I... I DON'T KNOW YOU!
OF COURSE!


THE REASON YOU'RE SO UNHAPPY IS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT US!!

WHY... HOW DARE YOU! DON'T TALK SUCH NONSENSE!

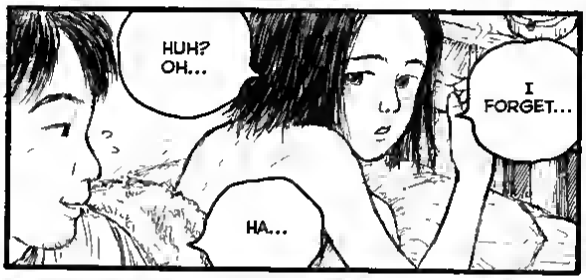
WHY... ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

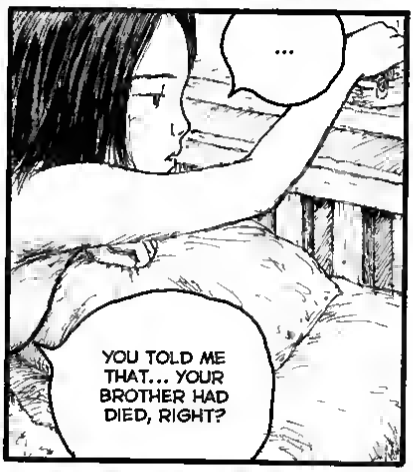

I'M FINE, NO PROBLEM... NOTHING'S WRONG...
NO...

HEY, WAIT!
KO...
KYOMU...
BRO... BROTHER!
HEY!
RENE!!
...!
RENE!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU WERE TWITCHING...
...
OH... PROFESSOR KOGA...

AGH...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
UH... YOU'LL BE SEEING YOUR DAUGHTER TODAY...
YEAH...
PROFESSOR... IT'S EARLY, ISN'T IT?
UH... YES...
HOW OLD IS SHE...?
UMM... FOURTEEN.
TAP
SO SHE MUST BE IN HIGH SCHOOL...
MY NAME IS RENEI HAYASHI, I'M 22 YEARS OLD AND I STUDY AT A SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO SO ON PURPOSE, BUT I'M HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH PROFESSOR KOGA, A MARRIED, RATHER UPTIGHT MAN, WHO'S A PAINTER AND TEACHES AT MY UNIVERSITY...
IN MY DEFENSE, I'LL SAY I'D HEARD THAT HE WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE, THOUGH RECENTLY I FOUND OUT THAT HE HASN'T BEEN DIVORCED LEGALLY...
LISTEN...
UH-HUH?

TEN YEARS AGO... IT WOULD NEVER HAVE CROSSED MY MIND I'D BE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS... EVEN NOW I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT.
I WAS POSITIVE I WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS... BUT... MAYBE THIS IS THE REAL ME...
...
...





[1] EMPTINESS
[2] NOTHINGNESS

A DREAM... THAT CONTINUES?
YESTERDAY'S DREAM, TODAY'S...
TOMORROW'S... THE STORY GOES ON DAY AFTER DAY...
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DREAM LIKE THAT?
MMM...
IN THIS WORLD...
ONE DAY FOLLOWS ANOTHER IN A NATURAL CYCLE...
THE SAME HAPPENS THERE TOO.
WHEN YOU FALL ASLEEP THERE, YOU WAKE UP HERE; AND, WHEN YOU FALL ASLEEP HERE, OVER THERE...
AND YOU CAN NO LONGER TELL WHAT'S WHAT...
...
IT WAS... THE EVE OF HIGH SCHOOL INITIATION DAY...
I FELL ASLEEP WITH MY UNIFORM ON.

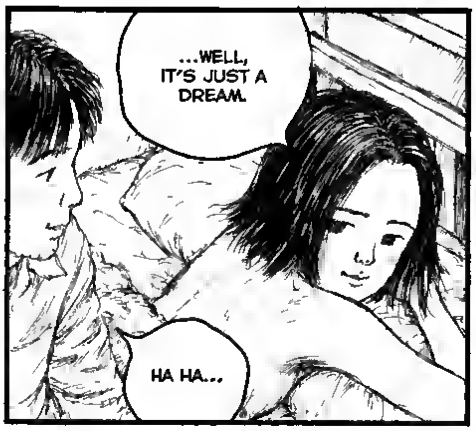
SUDDENLY, I WAS THERE AND LOST...
...?
BAAA
CLANG
!!
BAAA~
BAA~
KLONG
YAAAH!!
IT WAS A WORLD THAT WAS TOTALLY TOPSY-TURVY...
HEH.. HELP...
WHACKED OUT, BUT I CDULDN'T HELP FEELING IT WAS TDTALLY REAL...
BRO...
IT'S THERE THAT MY DNGOING DREAMS TAKE PLACE....ANDTHER EXISTENCE IN WHICH MY DEAD BROTHER IS STILL ALIVE, KD'S WORLD...
BROTHER!!

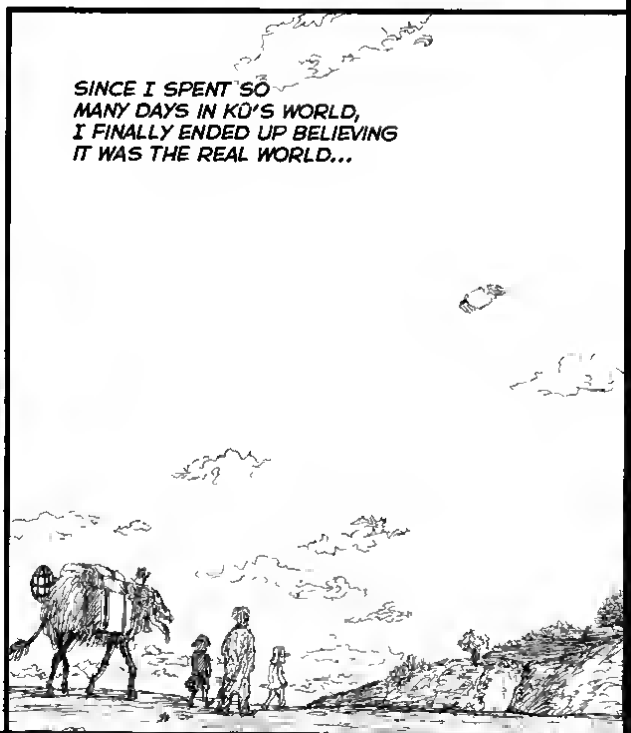
MY BROTHER'S NAME IS KAKERU, BUT HE INSISTS THAT HIS NAME IS KŪ AND THAT HE IS NOT MY BROTHER...

MY OLD FRIEND RYÔTA IS KYOMU... WELL...

I FOUND OUT LATER THAT RYÔTA HAD A TWIN BROTHER WHO WAS MURDERED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD BULLY...

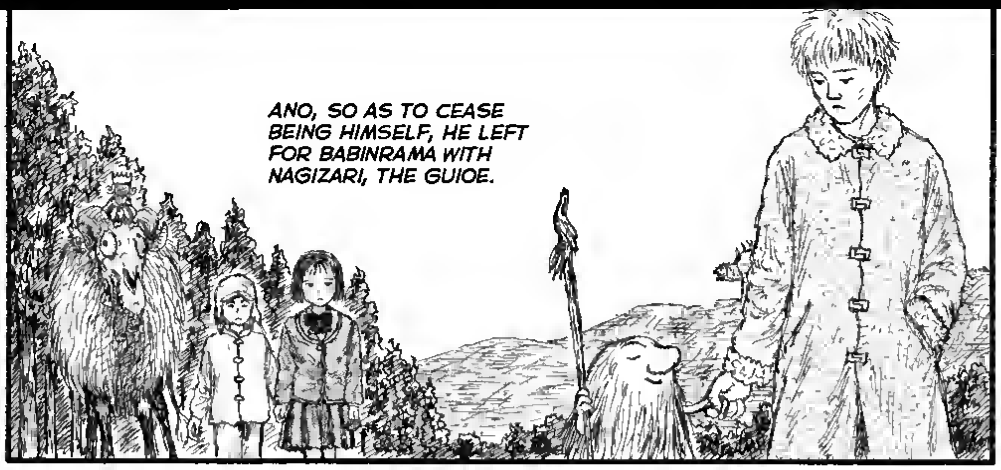
IT SEEMS THAT KYOMU IS THAT TWIN...

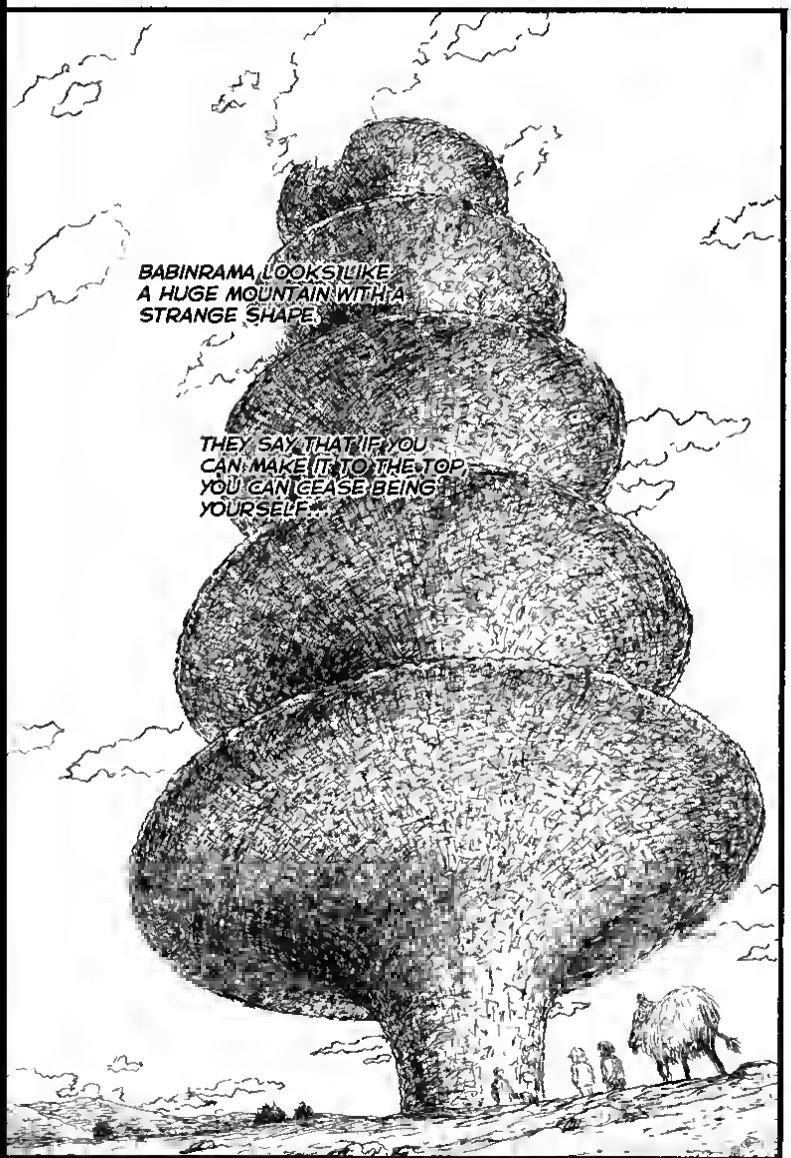

...WELL, IT'S JUST A DREAM.
HA HA...


SINCE I SPENT SO MANY DAYS IN KŪ'S WORLD, I FINALLY ENDED UP BELIEVING IT WAS THE REAL WORLD...

KŌ WAS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT THIS WORLD WAS MAKE-BELIEVE.
IT'S AMAZING, TO ENTRAP YOUR OWN SISTER...
WAAAH!
I WILL PRONOUNCE THE SENTENCE!
BANG
THE ACCUSED IS SENTENCED TO THE TEPPA!
BROTHER!
IT SEEMS THAT MY BROTHER, WHO PRETENDED TO BE SOMEONE ELSE CALLED KŌ, WANTED TO LIVE WITH ME FOREVER IN KŌ'S WORLD...
WERE YOU IN LOVE WITH ME, BROTHER?
THE TRUTH IS MY BROTHER WAS AOOPTEO SO, SINCE WE HAD NO BLOOO TIES BETWEEN US, REGARDEO ME AS SOMEONE SPECIAL TO HIM, EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.
LOOK AFTER RENEEEE!
LOOKING BACK, I THINK I TOO WAS IN LOVE WITH MY BROTHER.

...WELL, REALLY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, IT SOUNDS LIKE A FANCIFUL STORY TO ME...
NATCH..., IT'S A DREAM. THAT'S NORMAL, ISN'T IT?
NO... EIGHT YEARS AGO, I DREAMT IT THREE TIMES DURING THE SPRING OF MY SOPHOMORE YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND THAT WAS IT...
IT COULD BE THAT, AS I HAD ALWAYS BEEN WITH RYŌTA EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE, IT CAME AS A SHOCK WHEN HE SWITCHED SCHOOLS...
WELL... DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT DREAM?
AS I USED TO GO TO THAT WORLD QUITE OFTEN, KŌ SAID THAT I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ITS EXISTENCE TO RUN AWAY AND TAKE REFUGE THERE.
DOES ANYBODY WISH TO DISAPPEAR?
USING MINOZURI WHO CAN MAKE ANYTHING VANISH.
HE EVEN WANTED TO MAKE KŌ'S WORLD DISAPPEAR.
BUT, AFTER WE ALL PLEADED WITH HIM NOT TO DO SO, HE SAID...
I CAN NO LONGER BEAR TO BE ME.


ANO, SO AS TO CEASE BEING HIMSELF, HE LEFT FOR BABINRAMA WITH NAGIZARI, THE GUIOE.


BABINRAMA LOOKS LIKE A HUGE MOUNTAIN WITH A STRANGE SHAPE.
THEY SAY THAT IF YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THE TOP YOU CAN CEASE BEING YOURSELF...

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW HIM AND CLIMB LIKE MAO.

GOD WAS UP AT THE TOP... SO I ASKED HIM A FEW QUESTIONS...
OH, SOMEONE ELSE GOT HERE FIRST.
GOD!?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU IT WAS A DREAM!
WHY ARE PEOPLE SO COMPLICATED, SO SELFISH...?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE? THERE'S SORROW, MISERY, PEOPLE HURT AND KILL ONE ANOTHER!
WHY DID YOU MAKE PEOPLE LIKE THAT?
DON'T ASK ME FOR AN EXPLANATION...
OOF... THIS WASN'T IN MY PLANS...
ARE YOU REALLY... GOD?
MMMM, I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE THAT I'M GOD...
WHO MIGHT'VE BEEN MY MAKER...?
THERE WERE MANY OTHERS WHO SWORE THEY WERE THE ONE GOD...
WHAAAT!?

SO, NOT TOO LONG AGO WE ARGUED ABOUT IT AND IN THE END I JUST KILLED THEM ALL.
OH, REALLY...?
WHEN WE REACH THE TOP... WE'LL FIND OUT... ABOUT THAT AND EVERYTHING...
THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHY I CAME!!
...
WILL WE REALLY FIND OUT WHEN WE REACH THE TOP? WILL WE LEARN THE ANSWER TO ALL THOSE MYSTERIES?
IN THAT CASE, I WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING TOO!, WHY PEOPLE ARE LIKE THEY ARE!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE?
...

KEEE~
Booo..
FOOMEEE
AH
OH
KEEE
KEEE

?
KEE…
KEEE–
KEE KEE
BOOM
!!
KEEKEEKEE…

WH... WHAT?
IT'S PITCH-BLACK...
AND YOU CAN'T SEE A THING...
...HEY?

WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
!!
JUMP FROM HERE, MEEON.
OH, HE SPEAKS!
THEN WE WILL KNOW THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THE MYSTERIES.
AND I WILL CEASE TO BE ME...
THE MYSTERIES... WILL BECOME ANSWERS...
AND, ONCE AGAIN, WE WILL RETURN AS ONE WITH THE MYSTERY...
IS THAT A RIDDLE?
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!

SEE YOU AGAIN SOMETIME!
OH
GOD...
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
HE'S ALREADY BACK, MEEON!
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
OH... SOME-THING'S COMING...

BBBB
BBBBBB...
BBOOMM
WOW!!
AH!

BBOOBOOMM
...
BAA...
WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?
WAS THAT GOD... BEFORE?
THAT EXISTS TO SHOW US...
...THAT THERE ARE MYSTERIES THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND WHILE WE'RE STILL ALIVE.
BUT... WHY?
WHY DOESN'T HE SHOW ALL OF US THE ANSWERS?
HOW MEAN!
HE HAS OBTAINED ANSWERS AND HAS BECOME THE MYSTERY ITSELF.
HE'S GOING TO FLY ALL OVER THE WORLD PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF THE MYSTERY, MEEON.
HE HASN'T BECOME THE ANSWER?

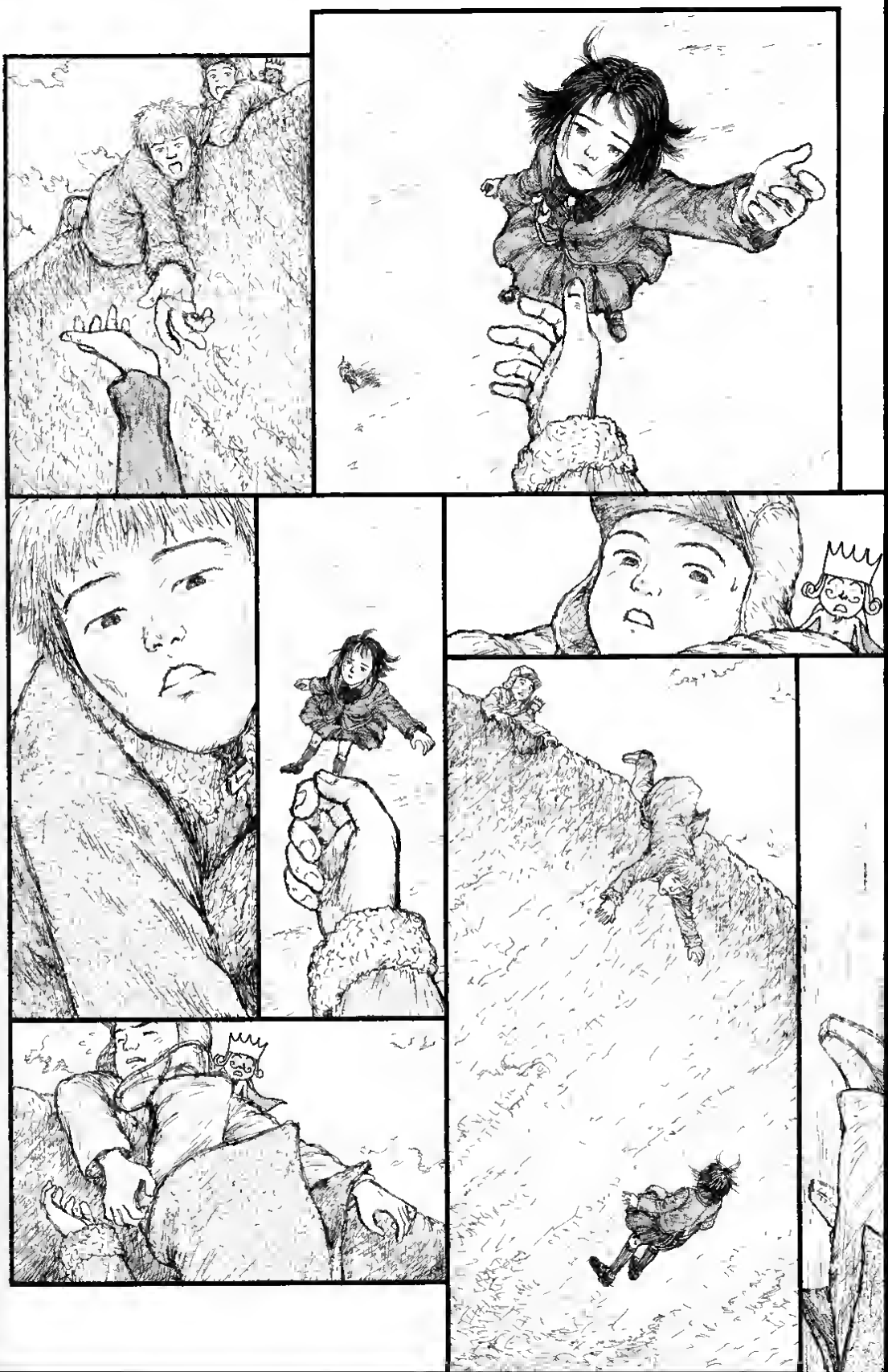
THAT IS NO LONGER ANYONE, NOR WILL HE SPEAK TO ANYBODY...
WILL YOU BECOME *THAT* TOO?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SPEAK. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS THAT BADLY?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN! I TOLD YOU FROM THE START THAT I WAS COMING SO I COULD CEASE TO BE ME!
I PASS! IF I HAVE TO DO THAT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS.
NO ONE'S ASKED YOU TO!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ME!
I DON'T... I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING...
THIS... CANNOT BE ONE OF MY DREAMS...
I CAN'T BE DREAMING SUCH CONVOLUTED THINGS...

...AAAGH
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE MATURED AFTER YOU DIED, EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE...
WHAT THE DEVIL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING HERE ALL THIS WHILE?
YOU ONLY THINK OF YOURSELF!
WHAT SENSE DOES IT MAKE TO LEARN THE ANSWERS OUTRIGHT STRAIGHT AWAY?
IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF YOU WERE LIKE THAT LITTLE OLD MAN WHO WAS HERE BEFORE, BUT...
...DO YOU MEAN GOD?
HEY!
SO FAR YOU HAVEN'T DONE A THING!!
BANG

FOOMEE
HEY, RENE!
CRUNCH
IF YOU KEEP ON SAYING YOU WANT TO CEASE BEING YOU...
...I'M GOING TO JUMP FROM HERE!!
HEH... HEY!
IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
AFTER ALL, IT'S ONLY A DREAM, ISN'T IT?

I... DON'T WANT TO FORGET YOU. I WANT YOU TO BE ALIVE, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A DREAM...
DON'T GO AWAY AGAIN...
!?
!!
CRACK
!!
TAP
HOLD TIGHT.

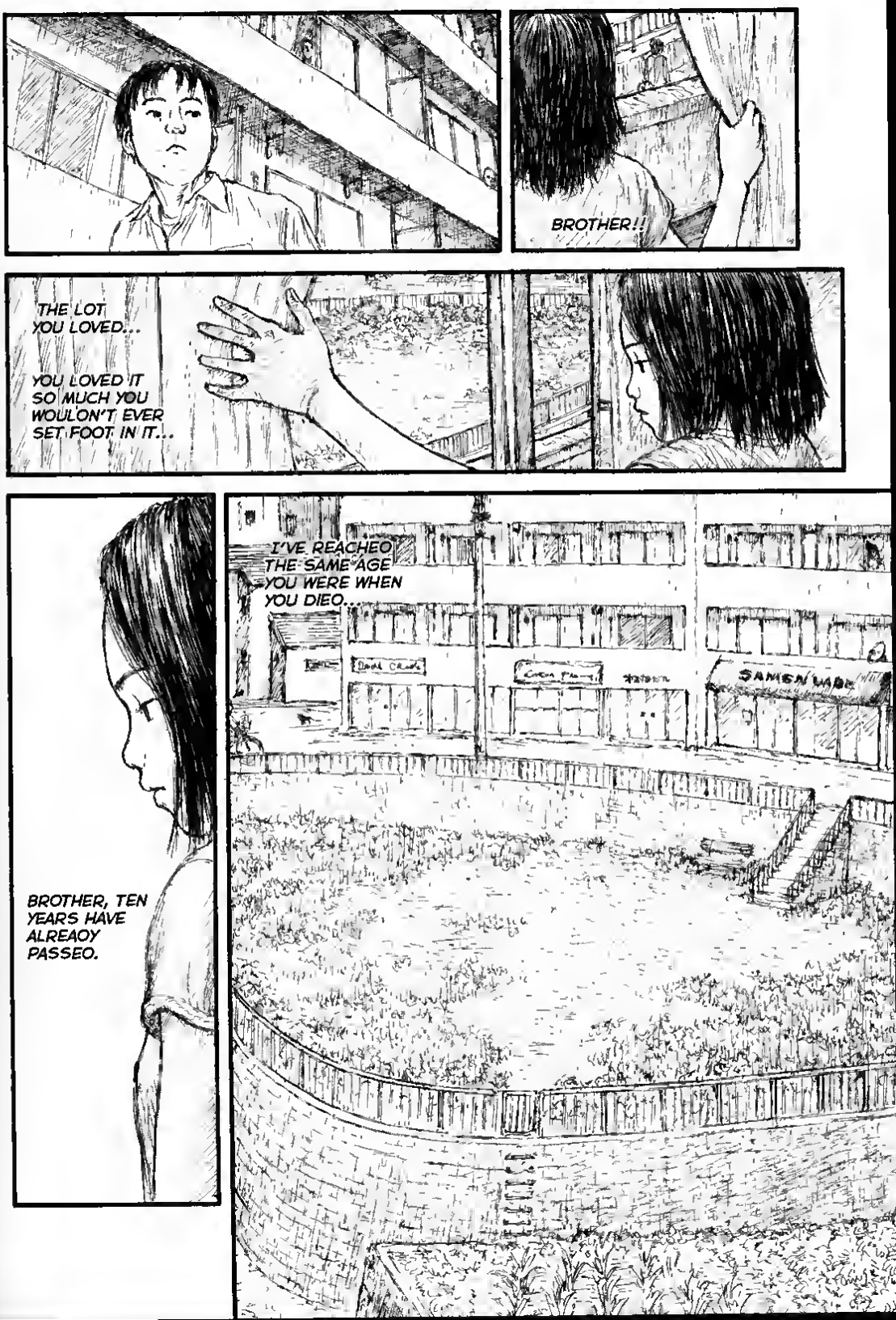
WILL YOU STAY HERE, AND BE MY BROTHER... FOREVER?
...FORGET ABOUT THAT AND GIVE ME YOUR OTHER HAND...
ANSWER ME, KAKERU!
DO NOT... DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME!!
...
GOOD-BYE! ...KAKERU!
SLIIP
RE...

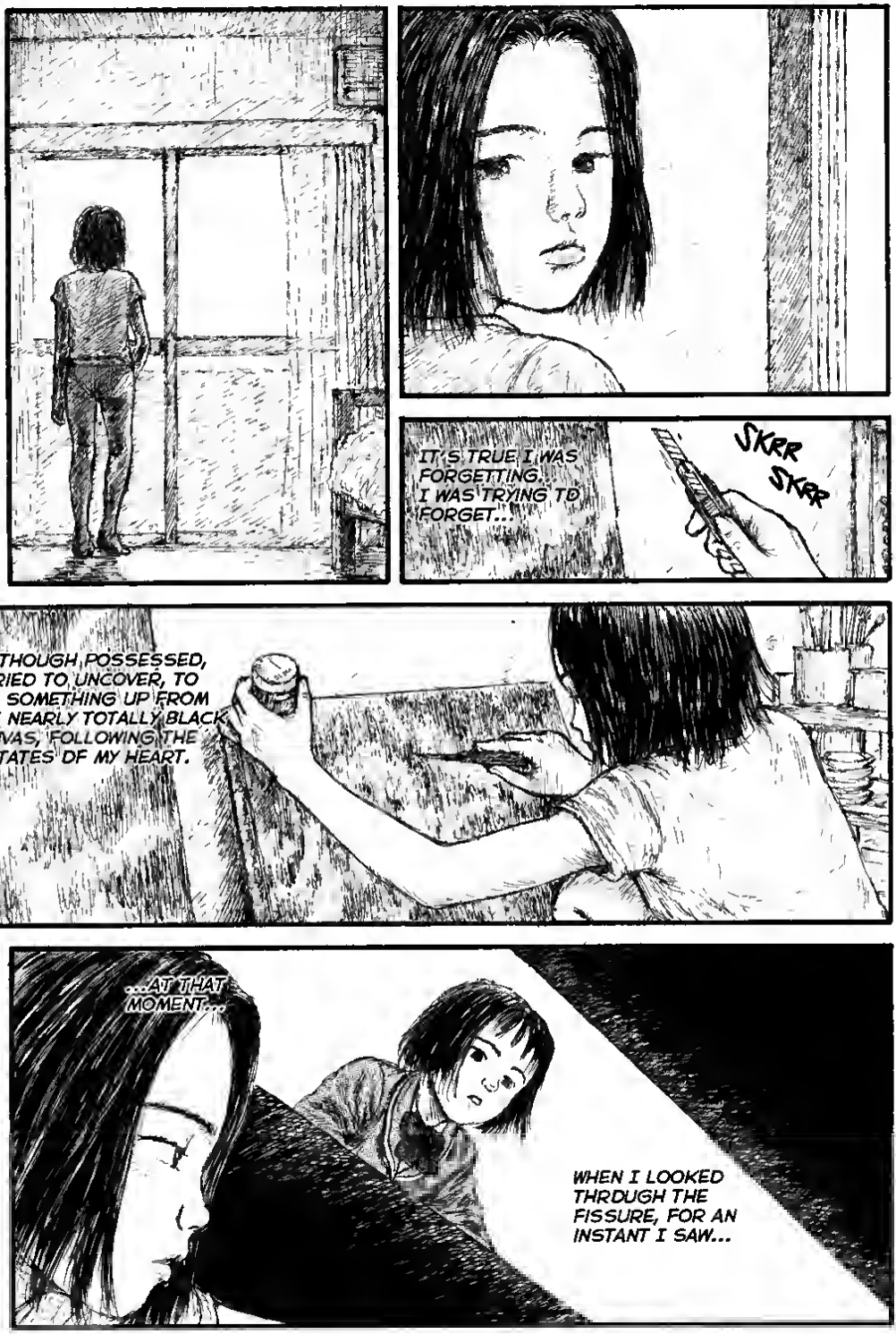


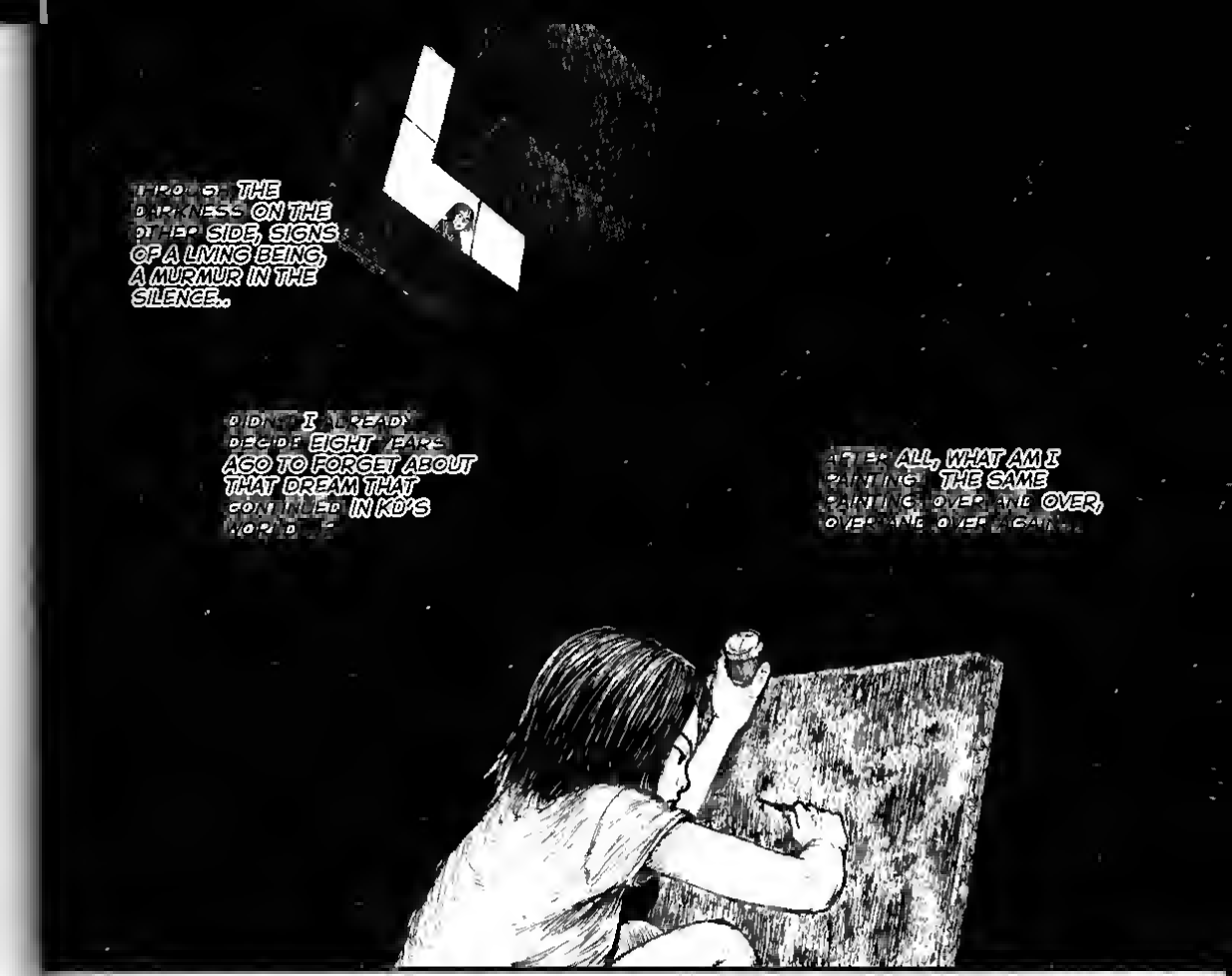
THUNK!
I HAVEN'T HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN SINCE...
...
HAHA... YEAH... A DREAM... JUST A DREAM...
YES, JUST A DREAM... WHAT'S MORE, BACK THEN I WAS RATHER OUT OF SORTS.
I COULDN'T ACCEPT MY BROTHER'S DEATH...
KŌ'S WORLD IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WHO DIED LEAVING BEHIND UNFINISHED BUSINESS MEET...
TO BE HONEST, IT'S A DREAM WORLD I MADE UP, INHABITED BY PEOPLE WHOSE DEATHS I COULDN'T ACCEPT...
WELL, EVERYONE KNOWS THERE'S A LOT OF TURMOIL AT THAT AGE AND THAT, SOMETIMES, IT'S DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH FANTASY FROM REALITY.
...
TO THINK THAT A WORLD LIKE THAT EXISTS AFTER DEATH... AND THAT BEHIND THE FISSURE THERE IS A REAL AFTERLIFE...
BUT IT'S VERY INTERES-TING.

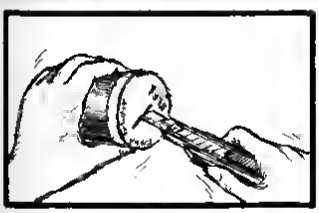
SO, THEN, IF PEOPLE WHO DIED LEAVING BEHIND UNFINISHED BUSINESS ARE THERE, WHERE ARE THOSE WHO LEFT EVERYTHING DONE?? BEHIND THAT FISSURE??
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
...
HEY, PROFESSOR, WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
DO YOU THINK IT'S NOT WORTH THINKING ABOUT?
BUT IT'S SOMETHING BASIC, ISN'T IT? WITHOUT MEANING, AREN'T WE JUST A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION?
UHHH...
YOU'RE ALREADY 40 YEARS OLD, AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
YOU KNOW GAUGUIN'S LAST WORK, "WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHAT ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?", RIGHT?
...I CAN'T SAY I'VE GOT THE ANSWER, BUT...
...
TO BE OUTRAGEOUS... THAT IS WHAT ALL ARTISTS SEEK...

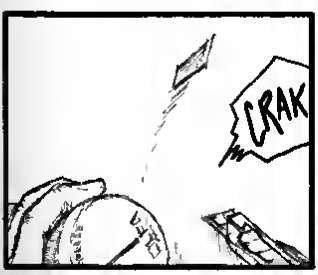
AT THAT MOMENT... IF I HAD LEAPT INTO THAT FISSURE, WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT...?
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO JUMP...
BUT THEN... MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW...
ISN'T YOUR DAUGHTER COMING TODAY? YOU'RE RUNNING LATE.
HM...
HOW COULD YOU HAVE KEPT SUCH A FASCINATING STORY FROM ME?
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE MY STUDENT, YOU STILL KEEP SECRETS...
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE YOUR EXHIBITION, HOW'S EVERYTHING GOING?
I'VE STILL GOT TWO PAINTINGS TO DO...
NEXT TIME TELL ME ALL ABOUT KŌ'S WORLD IN DETAIL STARTING AT THE BEGINNING!


BROTHER!!
THE LOT YOU LOVED...
YOU LOVED IT SO MUCH YOU WOULON'T EVER SET FOOT IN IT...
BROTHER, TEN YEARS HAVE ALREAOY PASSEO.
I'VE REACHEO THE SAME AGE YOU WERE WHEN YOU DIEO...
SAMEN LABE


IT'S TRUE I WAS FORGETTING. I WAS TRYING TO FORGET...
SKRR SKRR
AS THOUGH POSSESSED, I TRIED TO UNCOVER, TO DIG SOMETHING UP FROM THE NEARLY TOTALLY BLACK CANVAS, FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF MY HEART.
...AT THAT MOMENT...
WHEN I LOOKED THRDUGH THE FISSURE, FOR AN INSTANT I SAW...


THROUGH THE DARKNESS ON THE OTHER SIDE, SIGNS OF A LIVING BEING, A MURMUR IN THE SILENCE...
DIDN'T I ALREADY DECIDE EIGHT YEARS AGO TO FORGET ABOUT THAT DREAM THAT CONTINUED IN KD'S WORLD...
AFTER ALL, WHAT AM I PAINTING THE SAME PAINTING OVER AND OVER, OVER AND OVER AGAIN...




CRAK

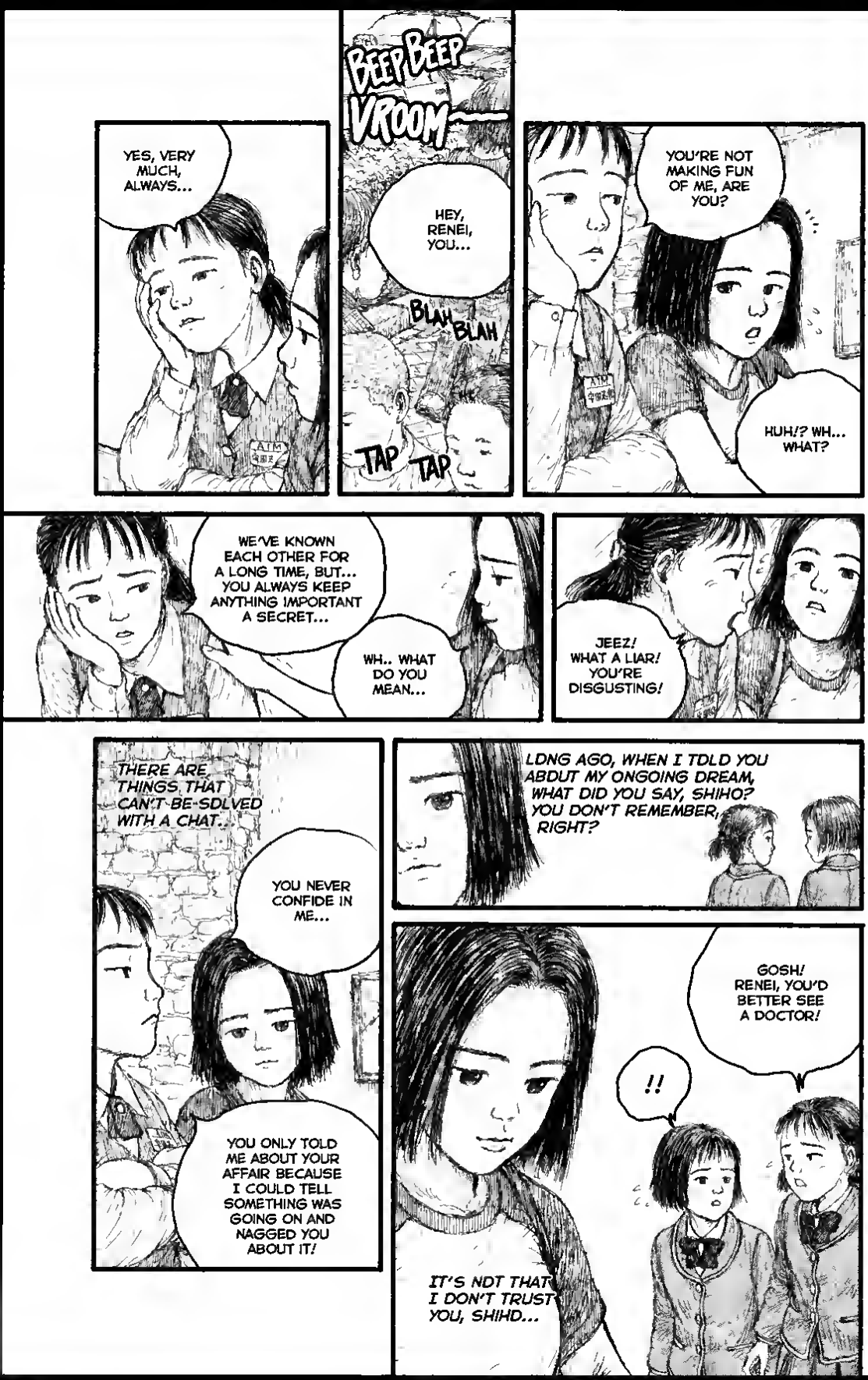
SKAT

OOH...

HA HA HA... I'M GOING ABSOLUTELY OUT OF MY MIND.

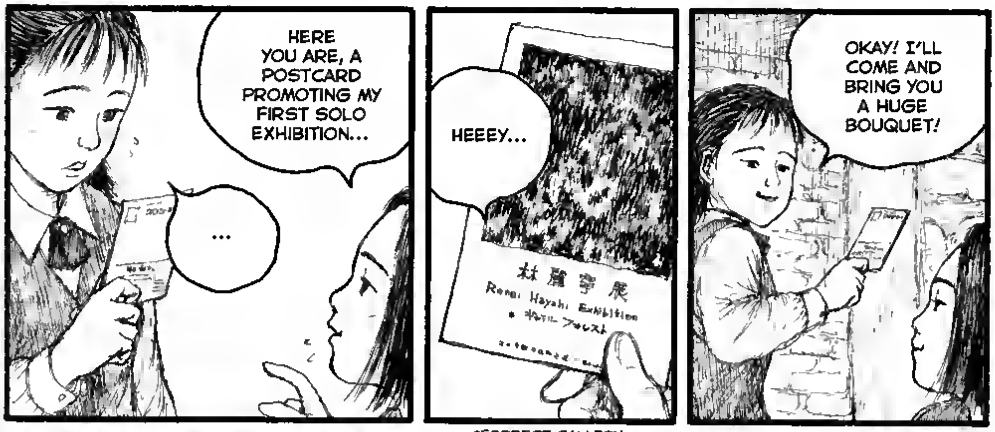
VROOMM
TAP TAP
...RENEI?
THE DEPARTMENT MANAGER IS ALWAYS CARPING...
I... THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF GOING BACK TO MY HOME-TOWN...
TAP TAP
BLAH BLAH
BEEP BEEP
TAP TAP TAP
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
HUH?
TAP TAP
OH... SORRY, SHIHO!
SO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU! SOMETHING'S THE MATTER..., NO?
UH... YES. LATELY I HAVE A FEELING THAT I'M BEING WATCHED.
WHAT? A STALKER? WHAT KIND?
WELL, IT'S JUST A FEELING... BUT IT'S PRETTY STRONG.

YOU, UH... YOU HAVE A FEELING?
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IN THE CROWD IS STARING AT ME...
UM... THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING MUCH WORSE.
WHAT'S IT CALLED? OBSESSIONAL NEUROSIS OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT...
HUH!?
MAYBE YOU HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE ABOUT SOMETHING?
ARE YOU STILL CARRYING ON AN AFFAIR WITH THAT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR?
WHAT...
AFFAIR? HE'S BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE FOR THREE YEARS...
YEAH, WELL, UM...
THEY'RE SEPARATED! IF THEY'RE NOT DIVORCED IT COUNTS AS AN AFFAIR, OR NO!?
WITH ONE OF HIS OWN STUDENTS!
WHAT A WEENIE!
KNOWING YOU AS I HAVE SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED YOU'D END UP LIKE THIS. IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH A PERSON CAN CHANGE!
LITTLE RENE!... YOUR GRANDMOTHER WOULD WEEP!
NEXT YEAR YOU'LL HAVE FINISHED SCHOOL, RIGHT? DO YOU REALIZE IT? ARE YOU THINKING OF BEING A PAINTER?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC. YOU WORRY ME VERY MUCH, YOU KNOW?
YEAH... YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER ME A LOT, SHIHO...


YES, VERY MUCH, ALWAYS...
BEEP BEEP VROOM——
HEY, RENEI, YOU...
BLAH BLAH
TAP TAP
YOU'RE NOT MAKING FUN OF ME, ARE YOU?
HUH!? WH... WHAT?
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, BUT... YOU ALWAYS KEEP ANYTHING IMPORTANT A SECRET...
WH.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
JEEZ! WHAT A LIAR! YOU'RE DISGUSTING!
THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED WITH A CHAT...
YOU NEVER CONFIDE IN ME...
YOU ONLY TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR AFFAIR BECAUSE I COULD TELL SOMETHING WAS GOING ON AND NAGGED YOU ABOUT IT!
LONG AGO, WHEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT MY ONGOING DREAM, WHAT DID YOU SAY, SHIHO? YOU DON'T REMEMBER, RIGHT?
GOSH! RENEI, YOU'D BETTER SEE A DOCTOR!
!!
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU, SHIHO...

IT'S JUST THAT IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO ASK YOU TO BELIEVE IN SO WEIRD A STORY AS AN ONGOING DREAM.
...
...
EVEN SO... THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO ACCEPTED ME JUST AS I WAS... GRANDMOTHER, RYÔTA...
Y, KAYA...
BY THE WAY, WHAT ABOUT KAYA...?
HUH?
...
KAYA...
YAH... WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DID YOU TWO GUYS HAVE? YOU LOOKED LIKE LOVERS.
WH.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
WE...
RENEI, ME TOO... I'LL BE MOVING DURING THE SUMMER VACATION...
...

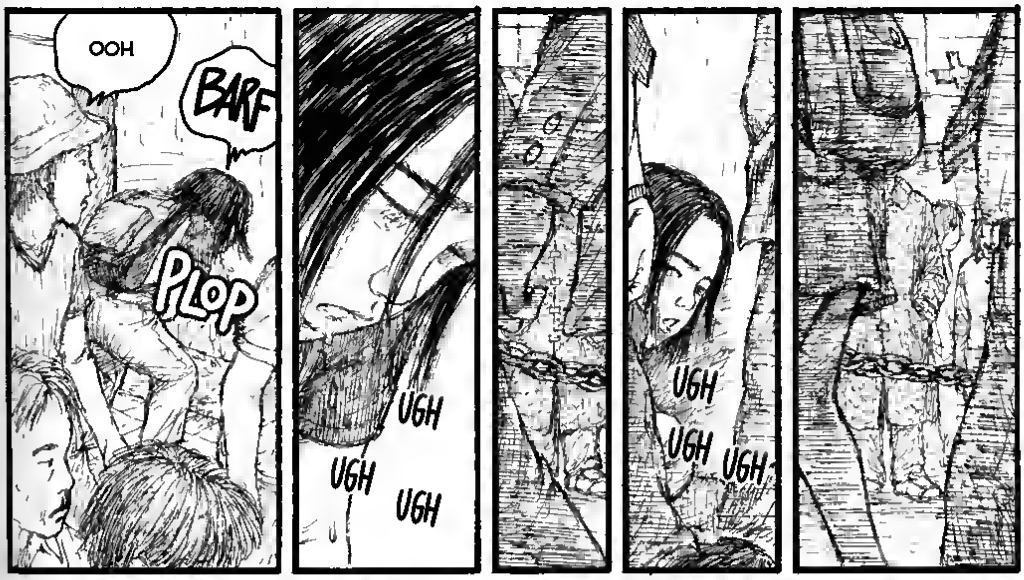
...WELL, IN THAT CASE, WE STILL HAVE A MONTH!
...
RENE!
EVEN THOUGH I'VE GOT TO SWITCH SCHOOLS, JUST KNOWING YOU ARE IN THE SAME WORLO I AM...
WILL SUPPORT ME ANO GIVE ME STRENGTH...!
YES...
HOWEVER... SINCE I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH IMAGINATION...
KAYA...
I FELT A BIT LONELY...
AS THOUGH YOU'O BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM ME, RENE!...
OH! BREAK'S OVER!
HMH?
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY SOME-THING...?
YAH... THAT'S RIGHT, I WAS ABOUT TO FORGET WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT!
GOSH, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGEO AT ALL, HUH?...


HERE YOU ARE, A POSTCARD PROMOTING MY FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION...
...
HEEEY...
Rena Hayashi Exhibition
OKAY! I'LL COME AND BRING YOU A HUGE BOUQUET!

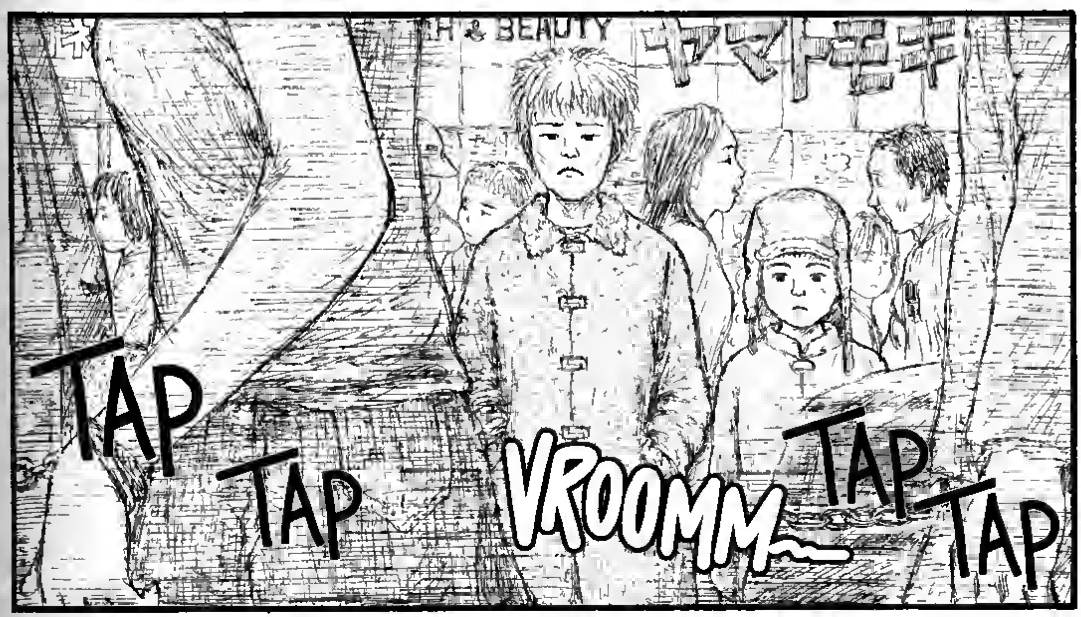
*FORREST GALLERY

THERE WE GO AGAIN... I HAVE THE FEELING... THEY'RE WATCHING ME AGAIN... COULD IT BE THAT IT'S JUST... A NOTION?
AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT SHIHO SAYS...

KA... KAYA!?
IT... CAN'T BE!!
NO,. IT CAN'T.../
I... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME! SHE WAS JUST LIKE KAYA WAS 8 YEARS AGO...
AH...
UGH!


OOH
BARF
PLOP
UGH
UGH
UGH
UGH
UGH
UGH

!!


H & BEAUTY
TAP
TAP
VROOMM
TAP
TAP

HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... IT'S RIDICULOUS...
VROOMM
POOT
RRRMM
...THEY'RE NOT...
WHOOSH

...IS THIS A VISION? WHAT THE DEVIL'S WRONG WITH ME? HAVE... I LOST MY MIND?
SO IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS... WHEN SOMEONE GOES CRAZY...?

UGH! A DRUNK?
OH, DEAR, IS ANYTHING WRONG?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
!!
!!
...WHY IS SHE RUNNING AWAY?
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS TO OTHERS... THAT I'M WEIRD?
HAVE I MORPHED INTO SOME KIND OF HIDEOUS MONSTER OR WHAT? OO HOO... BUT I FEEL TOTALLY LUCID...
IS THIS IT? IS THIS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO GO OUT OF YOUR MIND?
HERE.
USE IT!
OOH...

HUH?
...THAT GUY JUST NOW...
WHO...?
IS IT THE ONE WHO MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED...?
CAN IT BE THE ONE WHO IS TO GUIDE ME ON MY DESCENT INTO MADNESS?
HA HA... I, REALLY... THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS SHOULD BE HAPPENING TO ME...
UP TO NOW I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I EVER WENT CRAZY, EVERYTHING'D BE ALL OVER, AND THAT SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER SOMEONE WOULD TAKE CHARGE... BUT THE TRUTH IS, NOTHING'S CHANGED.
WHAT CAN I DO? NO ONE HAS TOLD ME HOW TO BEHAVE IN A CASE LIKE THIS!

TO BEGIN WITH, I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO HOME... WILL I BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...?
...
IS... THIS REAL...?
TAKE IT EASY... YOU'RE NOT GOING CRAZY...
...
WHO!?
WHO ARE YOU?
!?
HUH?!

WHAT?

I... I EVEN
HEAR IMAGINARY
VOICES...

BE FIRM...
KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP...
KEEP ON WALKING, RENEI...